

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AGR-20 AID-20

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /081 W

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R 230655Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9668

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO POUCH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2051

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, EIND, KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT FERTILIZER PROGRAMS

REF: A) STATE 91849 (NOTAL); B) STATE 95838 (NOTAL);

C) KUWAIT A-152, 11/28/73 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: KUWAIT IN PROCESS INCREASING ITS FERTILIZER CAPACITY.
IN ADDITION IT CONSIDERING AT LEAST THREE FERTILIZER PROJECTS
OUTSIDE KUWAIT IN WHICH TO INVEST. WE SHALL RAISE MATTER AT
APPROPRIATE LEVELS AND IN PARTICULAR URGE KUWAITIS TO GIVE
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO
NATIONS WHO WISH TO BUILD/EXPAND FERTILIZER PLANTS. END SUMMARY

1. REF A ASKED FOR STATISTICS ON KUWAIT FERTILIZER PRODUCTION
AND REF B INSTRUCTED EMBASSY TO RAISE MATTER WITH GOK.
REF C PROVIDES SURVEY OF FERTILIZER ACTIVITY IN KUWAIT AS OF
LATE LAST YEAR.

2. BASIC PRODUCTION STATISTICS FOR KUWAIT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

AMMONIA UREA AMSUL

ANNUAL CAPACITY MTS 650,000 650,000 150,000

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1972 PRODUCTION MTS 387,000 514,000 92,000

1973 PRODUCTION MTS 482,000 580,000 119,000

1974 ESTIMATE MTS 535,000 588,000 127,000

3. ORIGINAL AMMONIUM SULPHATE, AMMONIA AND UREA UNITS CAME ON STREAM IN 1966-67 AND NEW UREA AND AMMONIA UNITS WERE ADDED IN 1971-72. NO NEW UNITS ARE PRESENTLY PLANNED, BUT COMPLETE UREA OPERATION WILL BE DEBOTTLENECKED BY STAMICARBON OF GALEEN, HOLLARD. THIS OPERATION EXPECTED INCREASE OVERALL CAPACITY BY SOME 300,000 METRIC TONS PER YEAR, AN INCREASE OF ALMOST 50 PERCENT.

4. IN ADDITION KUWAITIS HAVE RECEIVED PROPOSAL FROM INDIA REGARDING A COMPLETELY NEW FACILITY (REF C) AND ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ASSISTING EGYPT AND THE SUDAN WITH PLANNED OR PROPOSED NEW FERTILIZER PLANTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. WHILE KUWAITIS MAY NEVER PICK-UP INDIAN PROPOSAL, BELIEVE THERE VERY GOOD CHANCE IT WILL SUPPORT FERTILIZER PROJECTS ELSEWHERE IN ARAB OR UNDER-DEVELOPED WORLD THROUGH AID PROGRAMS WHICH EXPANDING CONSIDERABLY.

5. BECAUSE OF TREMENDOUS RUSH OF RECENT VISITORS WE HAVE NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY PRESENT ARGUMENTS IN REF B TO SENIOR GOK OFFICIALS. ON OTHER HAND BELIEVE KUWAITIS HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO BOOST FERTILIZER PRODUCTION ESSENTIALLY FOR COMMERCIAL REASONS. MOREOVER, LOCAL FERTILIZER PLANT OPERATING RELATIVELY EFFICIENTLY AND IT CONSTANTLY IMPROVING.

6. BELIEVE IN KUWAIT OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL APPROACH TO PROBLEM WOULD BE TO URGE AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS AND ON CONTINUING BASIS THAT KUWAITIS MAINTAIN EXPANSION OF LOCAL FERTILIZER INDUSTRY. MORE IMPORTANTLY, PERHAPS, WE SHOULD URGE SENIOR KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER KEY AID OFFICIALS HERE TO GIVE FERTILIZER PROJECTS PRIORITY AS GOK CONSIDERS FOREIGN PROJECT PROPOSALS MADE BY OTHERS SEEKING GOK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. WE SHALL MAKE SOME PITCH TO SUCH REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS HEAD-QUARTERED HERE AS ARAB FUND AND OAPEC.
STOLTZFUS

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